(c) It is not practicable to state the total income from rural post offices because assessment of income is carried out only in respect of extra-departmental offices and that also once in three years. Departmental post offices maintained on a permanent basis in rural areas are not subject to periodical assessment of income nor is it practicable to state with any degree of accuracy what the total expenditure on rural postal network is because apart from the pay and allowances paid to employees posted in rural areas and other direct expenses such as rents, there are supervisory overheads at various levels which cannot be conveniently apportioned as between 'Urban' and 'rural'.

Statement

1. Percentage of Plan funds spent on rural postal services ("Opening of new post offices in rural areas")

1985-86	0.05
1986-87	0.09

2. Percentage of estimated Plan expenditure on rural postal services ("Opening of new post offices in rural areas")

1987-88	1.43
1988-89	6.8

Speedy Post Service to Bolpur Shantiniketan

1896. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Bolpur Shantiniketan with a speedy post service; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply above. The Principal requirement for the introduction of this service is the availability of air service with suitable arrival/departure timings vis-a-vis despatch and receipt of mail. The proposed service from Bolpur, Shantiniketan does not fulfil this requirement.

Prices of Vitamin A and Vitamin C

1897. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to question 681 given in the [illegible] na on the 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of Vitamin A and Vitamin C have increased their prices;

(b) if so, whether the producers have provided the break-up as required under DPCO, 1987 before increasing the prices; and

(c) if so, what are the names of the companies which submitted the break-up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The names of the companies who submitted the break-up are:

1. Vitamin A

   M/s. Roche Products Ltd.

   M/s. Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

2. Vitamin C

   M/s. Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises.

Push-button Telephones to MPs

1898. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether push-button telephone instruments have been provided to the Members of Parliament and other VIPs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether telephone instruments of ex-MPs in Delhi will also be replaced by push-button telephones; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.